Private participation in Defence Production

709. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up joint task force alongwith the Confederation of Engineering Industry to increase private participation in defence production; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Government have already set up an Apex Body and three discipline wise Functional Groups in the Department of Defence Production and Supplies in order to optimise the utilisation of the Civil Sector capacity in Defence Production. The Civil Sector industry is represented on these fora through nominated representatives of the major national federations and associations of Industry including Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI).

Streamlining of recruitment procedure for Defence Forces

710. SHRI JAGADISH JAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to streamline the recruitment procedures in Army, Air Force and Navy; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Recruitment procedures are reviewed and improved from time to time. Some of the important steps taken to streamline the recruitment procedures in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are:—

(i) An application system for recruitment has been introduced for entry as other Ranks. Under this system, a candidate has to apply directly to the concerned Zonal Recruitment Office (ZRO) where the applications are shortlisted or the basis of the number of vacancies, age, educational qualifications, physical standards, NCC certificates, etc. Candidates thus shortlisted are issued call-up letters directly by the ZRO to appear for screening at a given venue on a specified date and time, near their places of residence.

(ii) Common tests are conducted on a fixed date all over the country for selection of Other Ranks.

(iii) Applications once submitted by candidates will remain valid till they become over-age for recruitment, so that they do not have to apply repeatedly.

(iv) Screening of candidates is carried out by a Board of Officers with 2 independent members from the local formation/unit.

(v) In order to minimise malpractices in medical examination at the time of recruitment, a system of independent checks by a second medical officer has been instituted. Provision has also been made for appeals against the verdict of the Recruiting Medical Officer.

(vi) Prompt action is taken against touts/agents with the assistance of Civil Police/CBI/Army Liasion Unit.

(vii) Minimum acceptable percentage of marks in matriculation/other Examinations for shortlisted applications will be displayed so that candidates know their position. The merit list of selected candidates, once prepared, will also be displayed for public information. Candidates who are finally selected but do not report for enrolment will be sent Registered letters as final call for enrolment before utilising their vacancies for the candidates next in the merit list.

(viii) Procedure for issue of sponsorship forms for recruitment of Sailors in the Navy has been streamlined and work of the staff dealing with this job is supervised closely.